

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

National Security Council

Washington

May 18, 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER,  
OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD

SUBJECT: Studies with Respect to Possible  
U.S. Action Regarding Indochina

1. The President has authorized that requests be made of various departments and agencies to prepare, with the highest urgency and secrecy for submission to the National Security Council, appropriate studies on the assumption that United States armed forces intervene in the conflict in Indochina, and on the alternate assumptions that the Chinese Communists:

- a. Intervene with armed forces in Indochina; or
- b. Do not intervene with armed forces in Indochina.

2. Accordingly, it is requested that the Operations Coordinating Board, in cooperation with other interested departments and agencies, prepare for submission to the National Security Council not later than Tuesday, May 25, the following studies under the above assumptions, including the alternate assumptions stated in 1-a and -b above:

- a. Plan for keeping China out of war or reducing its effectiveness in war by political warfare means.
- b. Plan of Political Warfare campaign against Vietminh.
- c. Plan for gaining maximum support for U. S. intervention from indigenous peoples.
- d. Plan for political warfare organization as integral part of intervention.
- e. Plan for gaining maximum support of U.S. allies.

3. Attention is invited to the necessity for preparing these studies under the highest security safeguards, including restriction of participation in and knowledge of, such studies to the minimum number of individuals with a "need to know".

/s/

JAMES S. LAY, JR.

(Permission to reproduce given by Mr. Lay to Mr. Morgan, OCB, 5/18/54)

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